

**BUDGET COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2006
FOSTER CARE FACILITY PAYMENT SYSTEM STUDY**

Chairman Dever and members of the Budget Committee on Human Services, my name is Don Snyder and I serve as the administrator of the Foster Care Program for the Department of Human Services. I am here to provide you with information regarding the number of children in foster care both in and out of state, and a brief update on the changes in payment procedures for foster care facilities and PATH.

At any given point in time, we have approximately 1,202 children in foster care, and pay for the care of 960 of them. Children not paid for may be in relative care, at YCC or hospital. There are 780 children in family foster homes or relative care, and 422 are in residential care.

We currently have a total of 72 children in out-of-state care. Of these, 58 are in residential care and 14 are in family foster homes or relative care.

Attachment A shows a trend line of foster care placements from 2000 to 2005. Please note from 2003 to 2005 we have consistently increased family and relative placements and decreased residential facility placements.

In attachment B, please note relative placements have increased by 113%.

With regard to the update on Medicaid payment procedures for foster care facilities, the Residential Child Care Facilities (RCCF) and PATH started billing Medicaid under the new federally required methodology for dates of service beginning July 1, 2006. The Department will be monitoring payments each quarter, ensuring that the providers will not receive less than \$15 per child per day for rehabilitation costs.

I will be glad to answer any questions the committee may have.